

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

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WADE J. HENDERSON Executive Director

Realize the Dream. Restore Civil RightsFairness: The Civil Rights Act of 2004

Douglas King

To many, this seemed like an easy case. For years, state troopers like Douglas King were working overtime and not getting paid for it. Failing to compensate hourly workers for overtime is a direct violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Mr. King and over 200 Nebraska state troopers brought suit under the FLSA for \$6,000,000 to compensate for 44,000 hours of overtime.

The state offered the troopers compensatory time off ("comp" time) instead of overtime wages, but time off doesn't pay for a child's college tuition or doctor bills. And it doesn't pay the mortgage or car insurance.

But the court in the troopers' case had no choice. It was forced to follow the Supreme Court's decision in *Alden v. Maine*, which held that state employees cannot recover money damages (like back pay) for violations of the FLSA.

State troopers risk their lives every day to ensure that we are safe and secure. Is it fair for states to be able to violate the law and not pay state troopers or other workers the money they are owed?

Court case: King v. State

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